

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-30. (canceled)

Claim <sup>1</sup>~~31~~. (previously presented) A high performance tyre, comprising:

a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;

a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass;

a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt; and

a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer;

wherein the underlayer is made from an elastomer compound comprising reinforcing fibers and hardening resins; and

wherein a hardness of the underlayer does not vary by more than 5 International Rubber Hardness Degrees (IRHD) over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

Claim <sup>2</sup>~~32~~. (previously presented) The tyre of claim <sup>1</sup>~~31~~, wherein the hardness of the underlayer does not vary or varies by less than 5 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

Claim <sup>3</sup>33. (previously presented) The tyre of claim <sup>1</sup>31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer does not vary by more than 1 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

Claim <sup>4</sup>34. (previously presented) The tyre of claim <sup>1</sup>31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer is greater than 80 IRHD at 100°C.

Claim <sup>5</sup>35. (previously presented) The tyre of claim <sup>1</sup>31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer is greater than 85 IRHD at 100°C.

Claim 36. (canceled)

Claim <sup>6</sup>37. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim <sup>1</sup>[[36]] <sup>1</sup>31, wherein the underlayer has a dynamic elastic modulus (E') ~~of the underlayer that~~ does not vary by more than 10% over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

<sup>7 previously presented 6</sup>  
Claim <sup>6</sup>38. (~~withdrawn~~) The tyre of claim <sup>6</sup>37, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer does not vary by more than 5% over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

<sup>8</sup>  
Claim <sup>6</sup>39. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim <sup>6</sup>[[36]] <sup>6</sup>37, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer is greater than 15 MPa at 100°C.

*9 previously presented 8*

Claim ~~40~~. (~~withdrawn~~) The tyre of claim ~~39~~, wherein the elastic modulus of the underlayer is greater than 20 MPa at 100°C.

Claim 41. (canceled)

*10*

Claim ~~42~~. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~31~~, wherein the underlayer has a ratio between a 10% elongation load in a circumferential direction and a 10% elongation load in a ~~transverse~~ perpendicular direction which is greater than 3:1.

*11 previously presented 1*

Claim ~~43~~. (~~withdrawn~~) The tyre of claim ~~31~~, wherein the hardening resins are based on components chosen from among one or more of the following groups: resorcinol-methylene donors, epoxides-dicarboxylic acids, epoxides-diamines, epoxides-polyols, and alcohol-diacids.

*12 previously presented 11*

Claim ~~44~~. (~~withdrawn~~) The tyre of claim ~~43~~, wherein the methylene donors are hexamethoxymethylmelamine (HMMM) or hexamethylenetetramine (HMT).

*13*

Claim ~~45~~. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~31~~, wherein the underlayer ~~comprises a hardening resin~~ hardening resins are resins based on resorcinol and methylene donors in precondensed form in a quantity greater than 0.5 phr.

*14*

Claim ~~46~~. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~31~~, wherein the elastomer compound ~~comprises a hardening resin~~ hardening resins are resins based on

resorcinol and methylene donors in a form of two components, wherein a quantity of resorcinol is greater than 0.5 phr, and wherein a ratio of a quantity of methylene donors to the quantity of resorcinol is between 0.5:1 and 3:1.

<sup>15</sup> previously presented  
Claim ~~47~~. (withdrawn) The tyre of claim ~~31~~, wherein the reinforcing fibers are chosen from among: polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, carbon fibers, glass fibers, and polyvinyl alcohol.

<sup>16</sup> previously presented  
Claim ~~48~~. (withdrawn) The tyre of claim ~~31~~, wherein the reinforcing fibers are aramid fibers.

<sup>17</sup>  
Claim ~~49~~. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~48~~, wherein the <sup>16</sup> elastomer compound comprises reinforcing fibers are a quantity of aramid fibers ranging between 3 phr and 10 phr.

<sup>18</sup>  
Claim ~~50~~. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~49~~, wherein the <sup>17</sup> elastomer compound comprises reinforcing fibers are a quantity of aramid fibers ranging between 6 phr and 9 phr.

<sup>19</sup>  
Claim ~~51~~. (withdrawn, currently amended) The tyre of claim ~~51~~, wherein the <sup>1</sup> underlayer has a uniform thickness greater than 1 mm.

<sup>20</sup>  
Claim ~~52~~. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim <sup>19</sup>~~51~~, wherein the underlayer has a uniform thickness between 1.5 mm and 2 mm.

<sup>21</sup>  
Claim ~~53~~. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The tyre of claim <sup>1</sup>~~[[51]] 51~~, wherein the thickness of the underlayer is variable.

Claims 54-56. (canceled)

<sup>25</sup>  
Claim ~~57~~. (~~withdrawn~~, currently amended) The method of claim <sup>22</sup>~~58~~, wherein the thermostable compound has ~~[[an]]~~ a dynamic elastic modulus (E') which ~~is substantially constant~~ does not vary by more than 10% over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

<sup>22</sup>  
Claim ~~58~~. (previously presented) A method for improving behaviour at high speeds of a high-performance tyre, the tyre comprising:

- a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;
- a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass; and

- a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt;

the method comprising:

mounting on a periphery of the radially-external layer a tread band  
comprising an underlayer and an external layer;  
wherein the underlayer comprises a thermostable compound comprising  
reinforcing fibers and hardening resins, and  
wherein a hardness of the thermostable compound does not vary by more than  
5 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

*23 previously presented* *22*  
Claim ~~59~~. (~~withdrawn~~) The method of claim ~~58~~, wherein the tread band is  
obtained by coextruding the underlayer and the external layer.

*24 previously presented* *22*  
Claim ~~60~~. (~~withdrawn~~) The method of claim ~~58~~, wherein the underlayer is  
obtained by calendering.